

Social correlates of two vowel changes in Northern England

Bill Haddican (Queens College, York)

Hazel Richards (York)

Paul Foulkes (York)

Vincent Hughes (York)



*A Comparative Study of Language Change in
Northern Englishes (2008-13)*



ESRC: RES-061-25-0033



NWAV40

1. Introduction

Dialect contact in midland/Northern England

- Northward spreading of southeastern features
Trudgill 1986, Foulkes & Docherty 1999, Kerswill & Williams 2000, 2005, Britain 2002, Kerswill et alim)
- (t) 'meter', 'later'
 - Leeds OM 
 - Leeds YM 



1. Introduction

Dialect contact in midland/Northern England

Variable	Publication
(t)	Milroy et al 1994, Docherty & Foulkes 1999, Kerswill & Williams 2002, Llamas 2007, Watson 2006, Foulkes & Docherty 2006
(th)	Trudgill 1988, Williams & Kerswill 1999, Kerswill & Williams 2002, Milroy 2003, Richards 2008
Constraints on <i>was/were</i>	Tagliamonte 1998, Britain 2002, Cheshire 2007, Richards 2008
Labiodental /r/	Foulkes & Docherty 2000
/l/-vocalization	Stuart-Smith et al 2006

1. Introduction

Dialect contact in midland/Northern England





- Accounts have typically focused on local speakers' understandings of individual linguistic features as indices of place and interaction with age, gender, class, and ethnicity (Trudgill 1986, Williams & Kerswill 1999, Watt & Milroy 1999, Watt 2002, Dyer 2002, 2010, Llamas 2007, Richards 2008).
- Little work on a principal stereotypical feature of Northern speech, namely monophthongal FACE/GOAT (Watt & Milroy 1999, Watt 2002).

1. Introduction





Focus:

- Social and attitudinal correlates of two vowel changes in Northern England

i. Mid-vowel diphthongization

- ‘boat’  
- ‘fatal’  

ii. GOOSE/GOAT fronting

- ‘boat’  
- ‘goose’  



1. Introduction

GOAT/FACE diphthongization: Watt (2000, 2002)/
Watt & Milroy (1999)

- Study of variation in /o/, /e/ in Newcastle.
 - FACE [eɪ, **ɪə**, eɪ̯,]
 - GOAT [əʊ, **ʊə**, oɪ̯]
- Loss of centering diphthongs
- Expansion of So. diphthongal variants among MC speakers.
- Levelling to [eɪ̯, oɪ̯]



1. Introduction

GOAT/FACE diphthongization: Watt (2000, 2002)/
Watt & Milroy (1999)

- Regional levelling (Kerswill 2003a,b, Kerswill & Williams 2000)
- Levelling shaped by associations of different variants.
Centering diphthongs “traditional Geordie”/ “old Geordie.”
- [oɪ] [eɪ] accommodate an identity as “modern” Northerners.
- No controlled attitudinal data.



1. Introduction

GOAT/GOOSE fronting

- Reported in several dialects:
 - **GOOSE**: RP (Henton 1983, Bauer 1985, Hawkins & Midgley 2005); Milton Keynes (Kerswill & Williams 2005); Carlisle (Jansen 2010); Manchester (Hughes et al 2010)
 - **GOAT**: RP (Grimson 1970, Wells 1982, Trudgill 2001); Hull (Kerswill & Williams 1999); Newcastle (Watt & Milroy 1999); Bradford (Watt & Tillotson 2001); Manchester (Hughes et al 2010)
- Broadly attested in N. American dialects (Labov 1994, Fridland 1999, Thomas 2001, Hall Lew 2004, 2009, Baranowski 2008, Koops 2010)

1. Introduction

GOAT/GOOSE fronting

- **GOOSE**
 - **US:** Fronting mainly in nucleus (Hall-Lew 2009, Koops 2010)
 - **UK:** Whole vowel? (Kerswill & Williams 2000, 2005)
- **GOAT** fronting mainly in offglide (Kerswill & Williams 2005)
- Labov: /ow/ fronting parasitic on /uw/ fronting
 - GOOSE fronting typically precedes GOAT fronting and is farther advanced (Labov 1994:208)
 - BUT Watt (2000) found GOAT fronting in the absence of GOOSE fronting → Is this a pattern which is consistent across the north?

1. Introduction

GOAT/GOOSE fronting

- led by women → at least for GOAT (Hall-Lew 2004, Baranowski 2008, Watt & Tillotson 2001)
- possibly diffusion from southeast
 - fronting as typical feature of S.E. British English (Kerswill & Williams 2005)
 - long time depth of GOOSE fronting in the south (Ellis 1889, Gordon et al 2004)



1. Introduction

Goal

- Compare social and attitudinal correlates of FACE/GOAT monophthongization and GOAT/GOOSE fronting in York.



2. Data and method

Samples

- 2008 NE project data
- 1998 York corpus data (Tagliamonte 1998) **(Thanks, Sali!)**

Age group	Women	Men
2008 sample (18-22, M=20.3)	10	8
1998 sample, younger (17-31, M=23.0)	8	8
1998 sample, older (59-78, M=65.2)	8	8

- Sex/age groups matched for education, occupational type and neighborhood (see appendix in online version)¹²

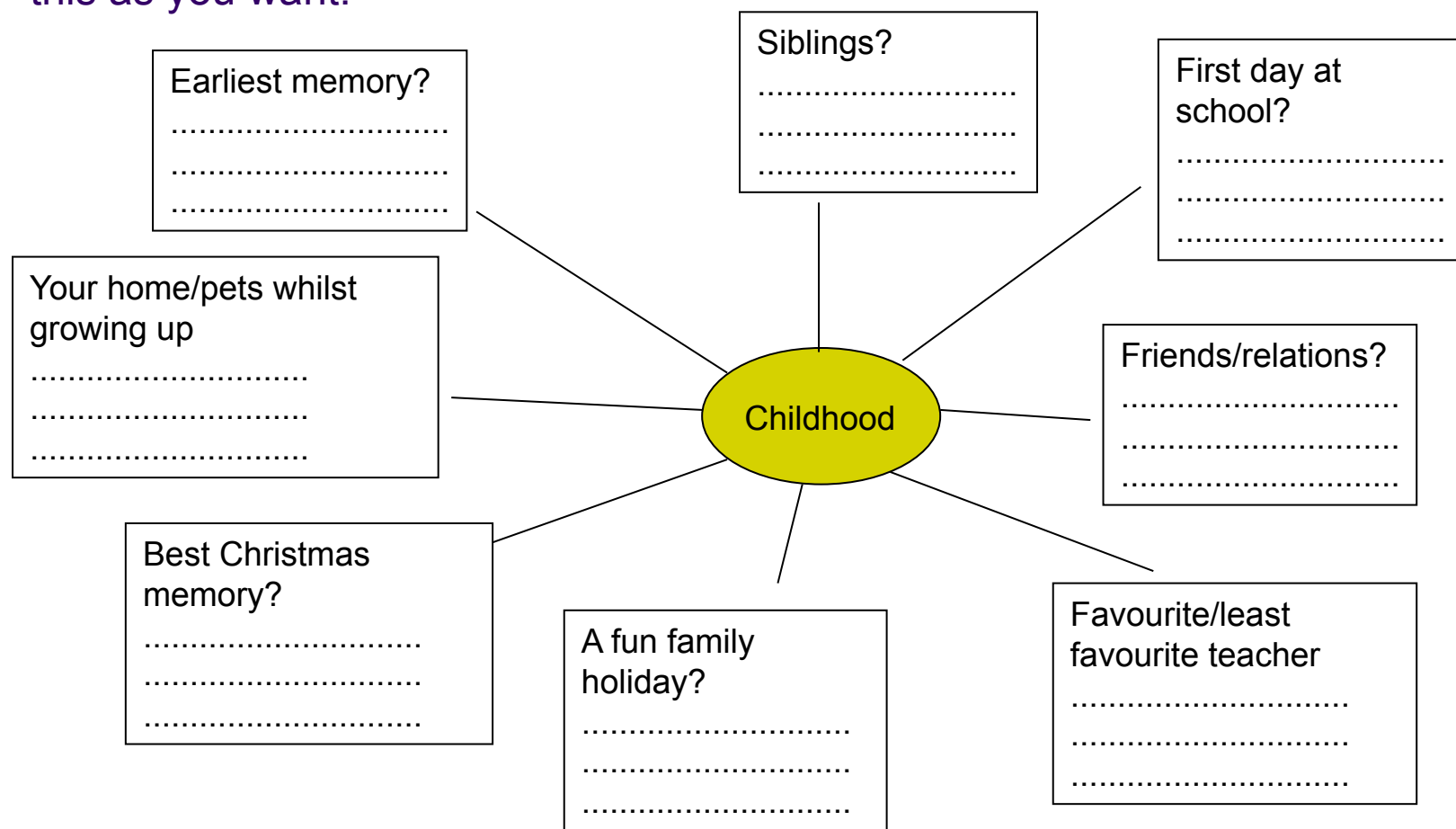
2. Data and method

Data collection (NE project data)

- Conversation data
 - Paired (mainly) same-sex dyads
 - Guided by prompts: childhood, school, community
- Word list (~200 items)
- Ethnographic interview led by researcher
 - Focus: Who speaks how in the community?
 - Partially open ended
 - Imitation tasks

Conversation prompts

Use the next few minutes to think about the following issues and jot down some notes for yourself, to prompt you during the conversation period. Do this separately from your interview partner, then during the conversation time, you can compare notes and share with each other. You can fill in and talk about as much or as little of this as you want.



2. Data and method

Index of scores for attitudinal questions

1. Do you like living here in York?
2. Do you plan to settle here in York?
3. What accent would you say you had?
4. Do you like the York accent?
5. Are you proud to be from York?

Questions 1,2,4,5

- Positive response +1
- Unsure/non-committal/neutral response 0
- Negative response -1

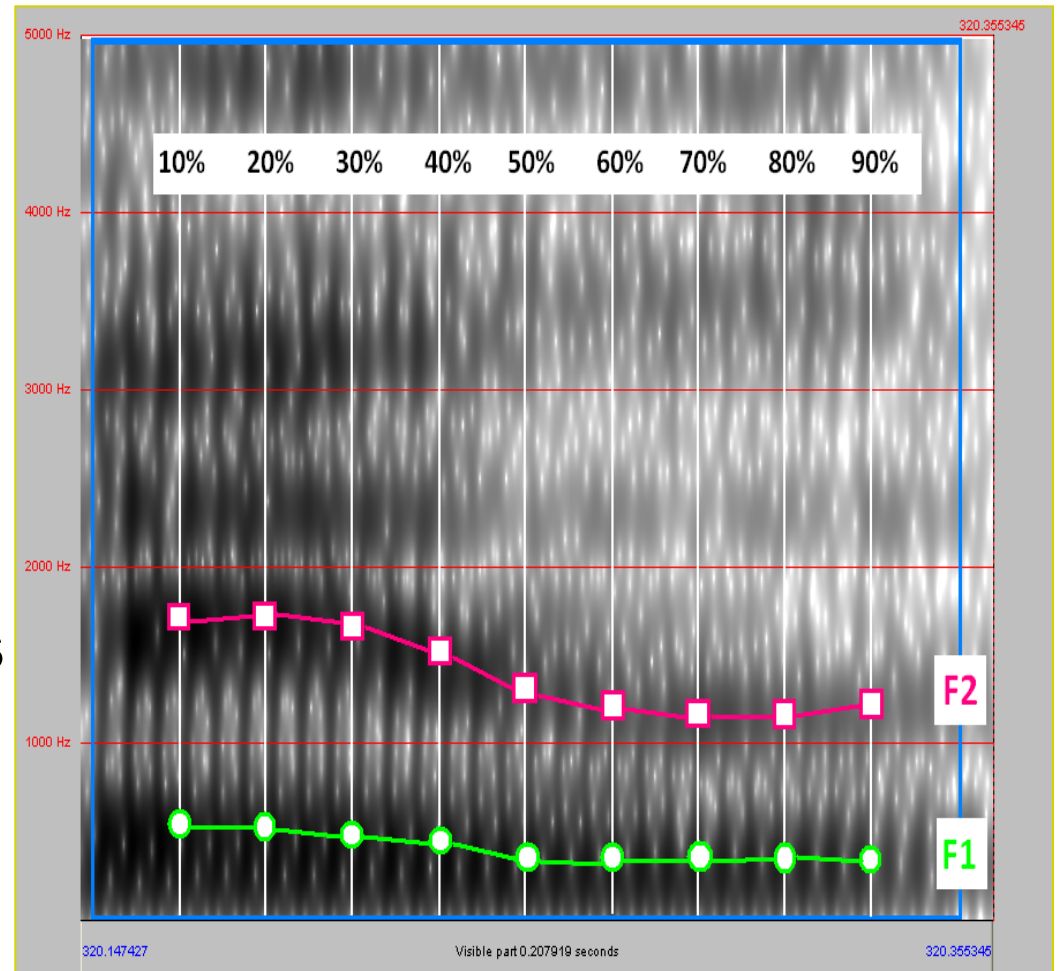
Question 3

- York/Yorkshire +1
- Northern 0
- None/neutral -1

2. Data and method

Extraction

- Conv. data ~35 tokens/ vowel
- Word list (2008 data): 10 GOAT, 16 FACE
- 9 time-normalized F1&F2 measurements extracted via script (McDougall 2004, 2005, 2006, Nycz & De Decker 2006, Koops 2010, Freuhwald 2010)



'boot' (older male) 16

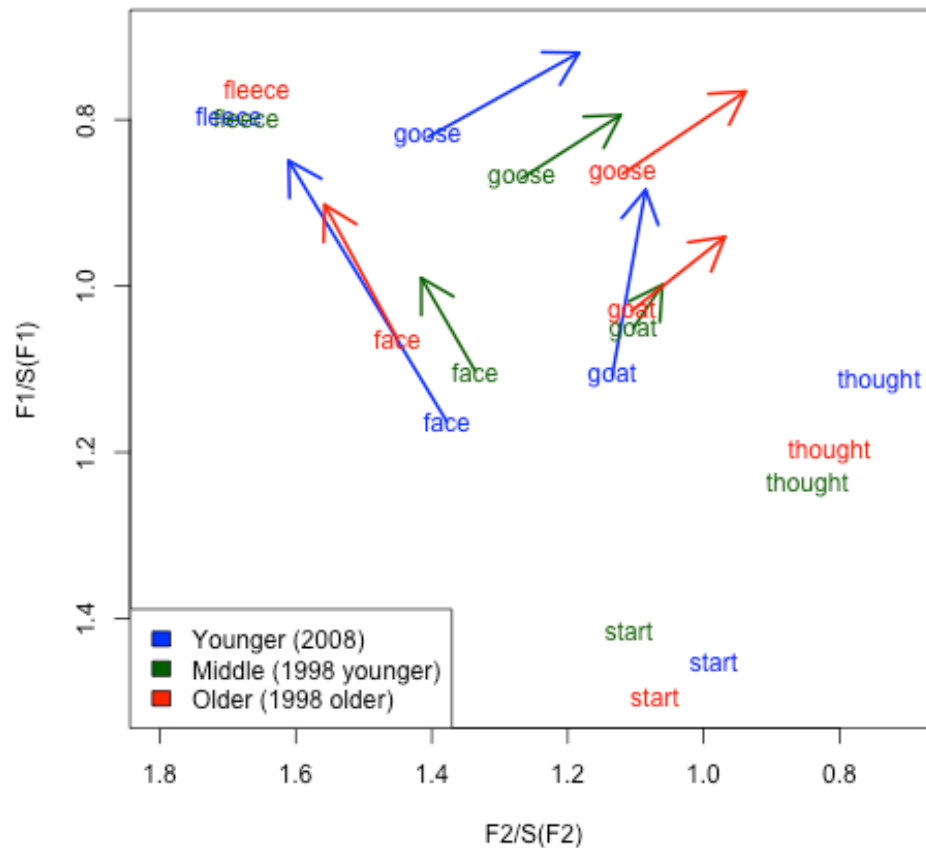
2. Data and method

Diphthong lengths and normalization

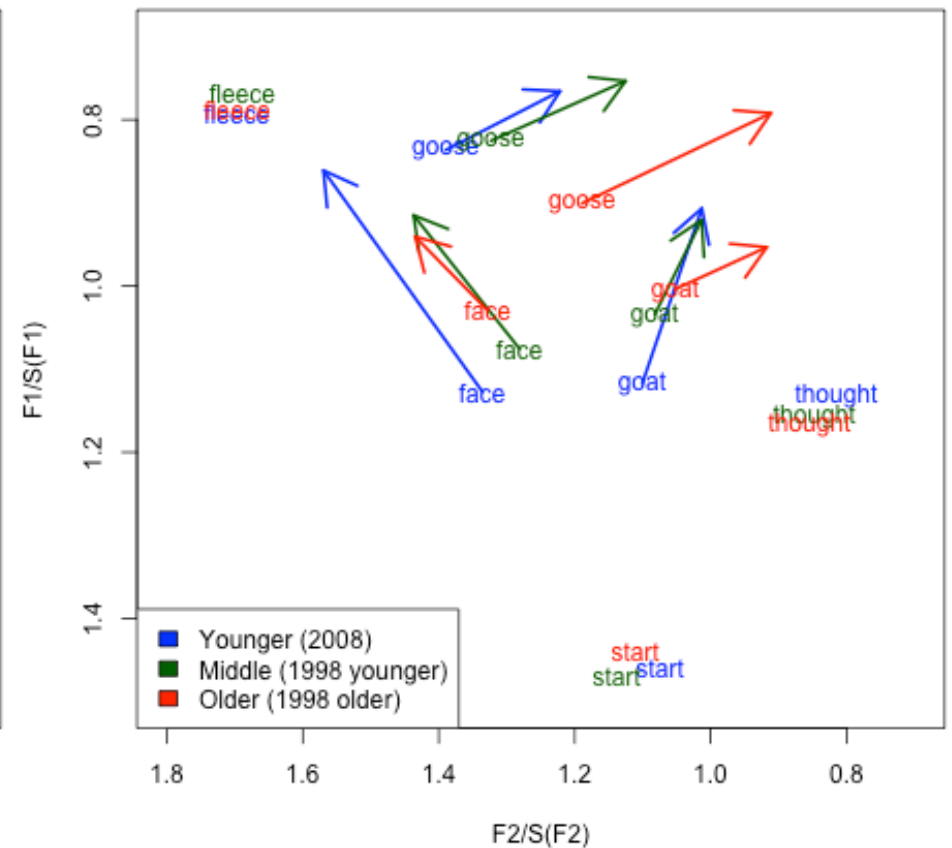
- Diphthong length by Euclidean distance (using 1st & 9th values for F1&F2) (Fabricius 2007)
- Normalized using modified Watt & Fabricius procedure (2009) using Vowels package for R (Kendall & Thomas 2010)
 - Reference Vowels FLEECE, START, THOUGHT (5 tokens/vowel)
- Results analyzed by fitting separate lmer models for FACE and GOAT with random intercepts for lexical root and speaker.

3. FACE/GOAT diphthongization

F1~F2 Plots by Age group-Women



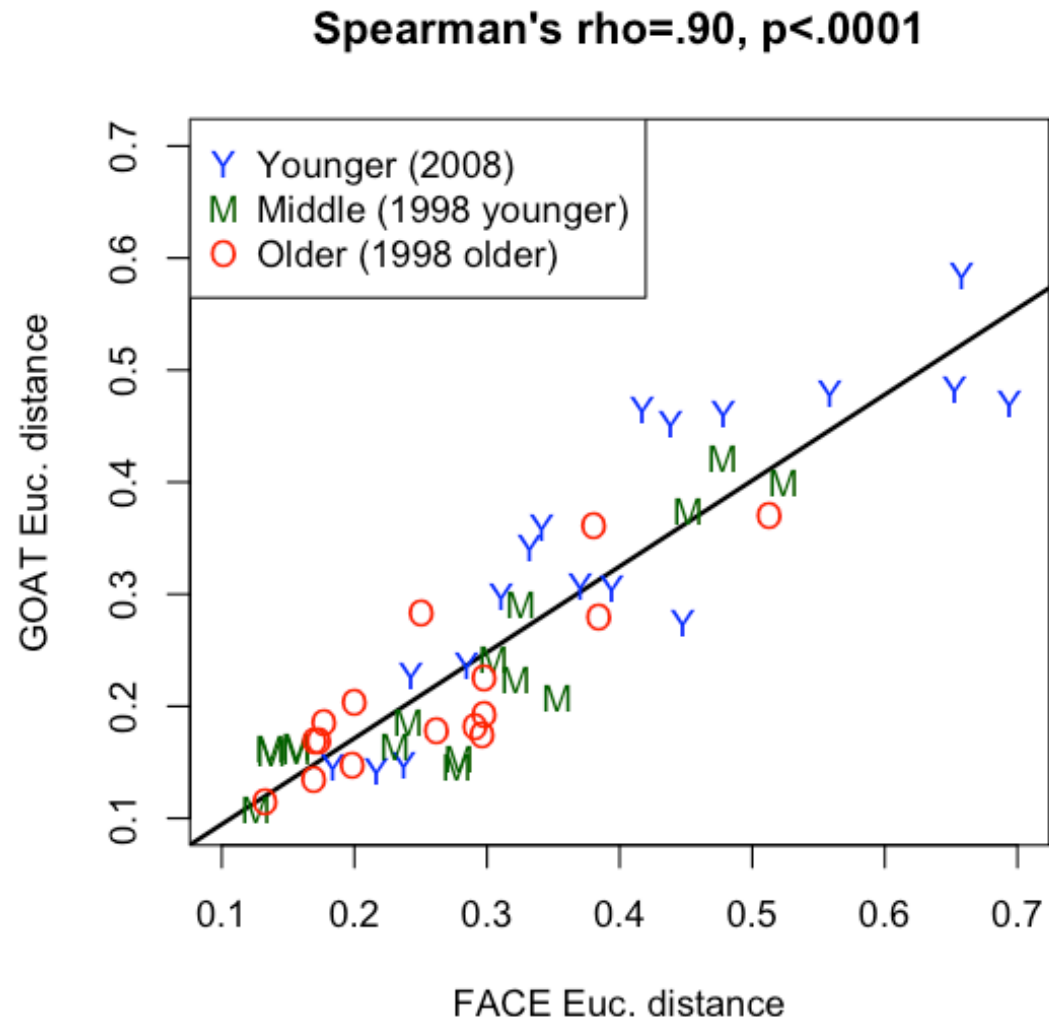
F1~F2 Plots by Age group-MEN



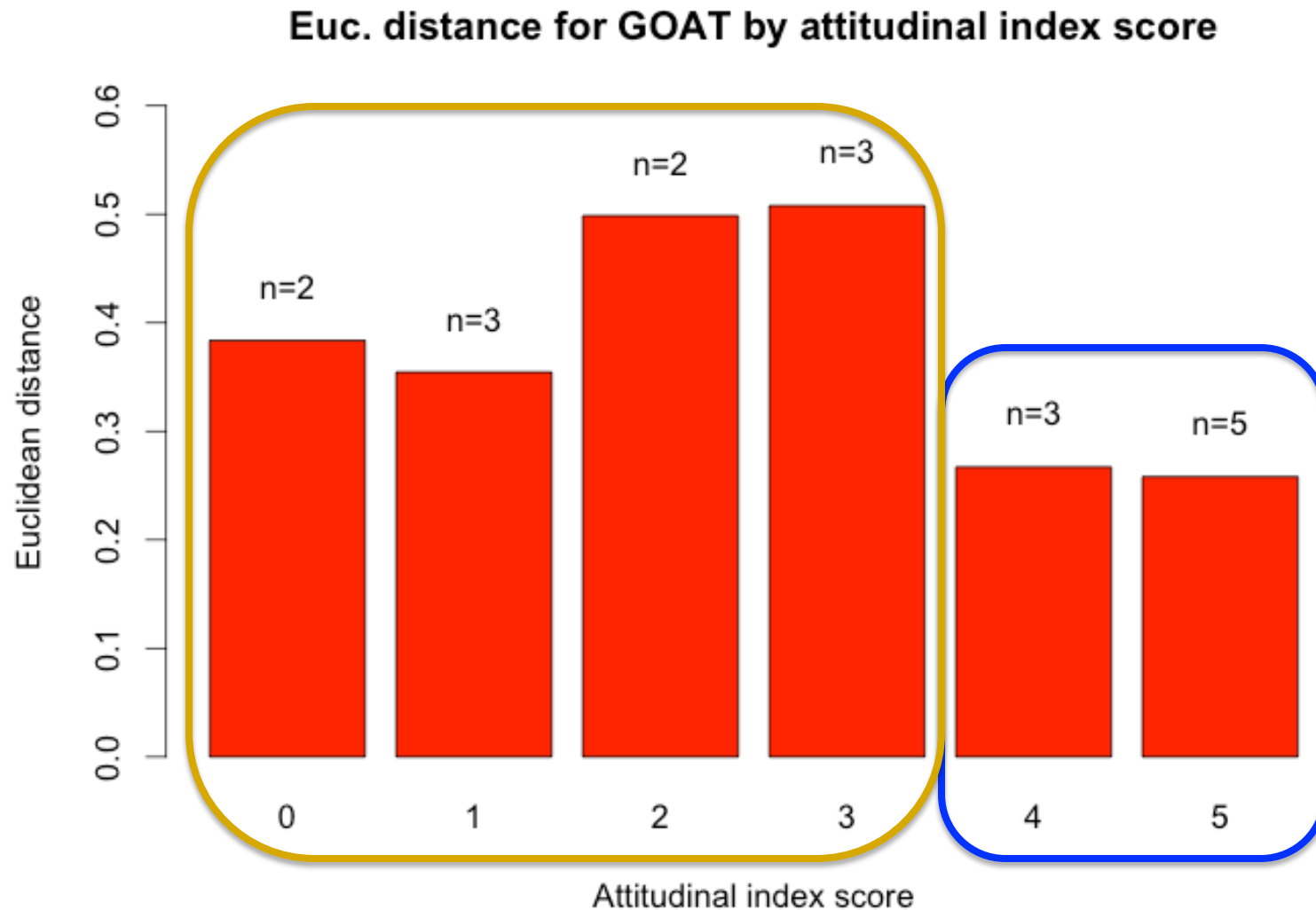
3. FACE/GOAT diphthongization

**By-speaker
correlation:
FACE/GOAT euc.
distance**

- “Lockstep” change for FACE/GOAT (Watt 2000)
- No significant main effects or interactions for speaker sex.



3. FACE/GOAT diphthongization



3. FACE/GOAT diphthongization

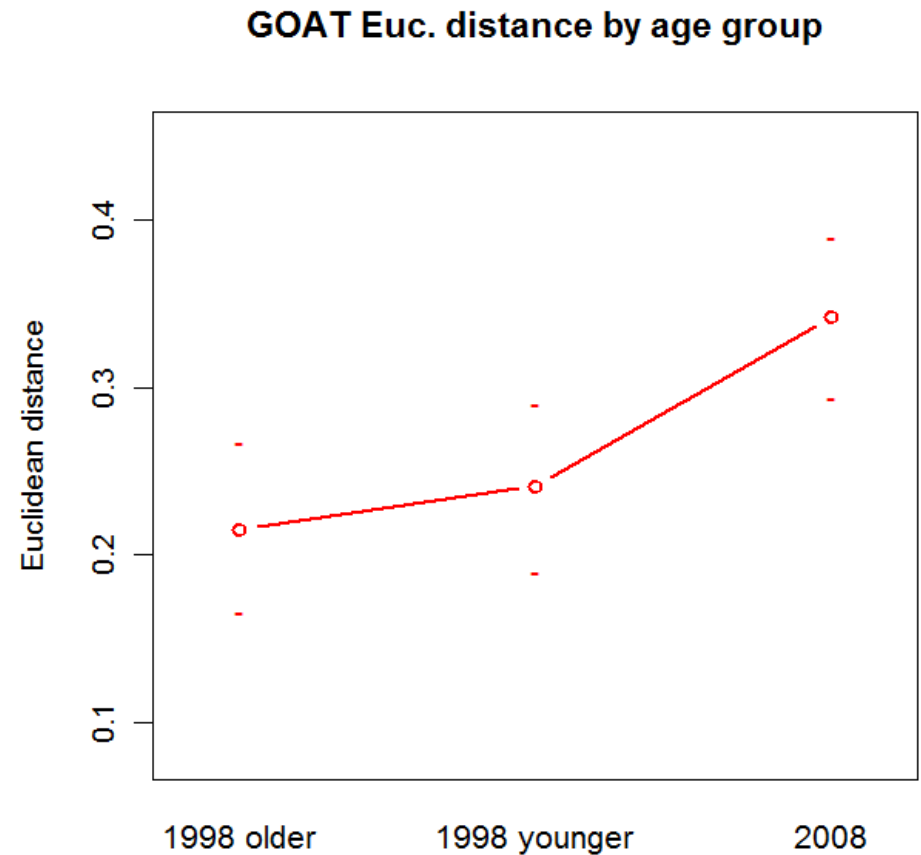
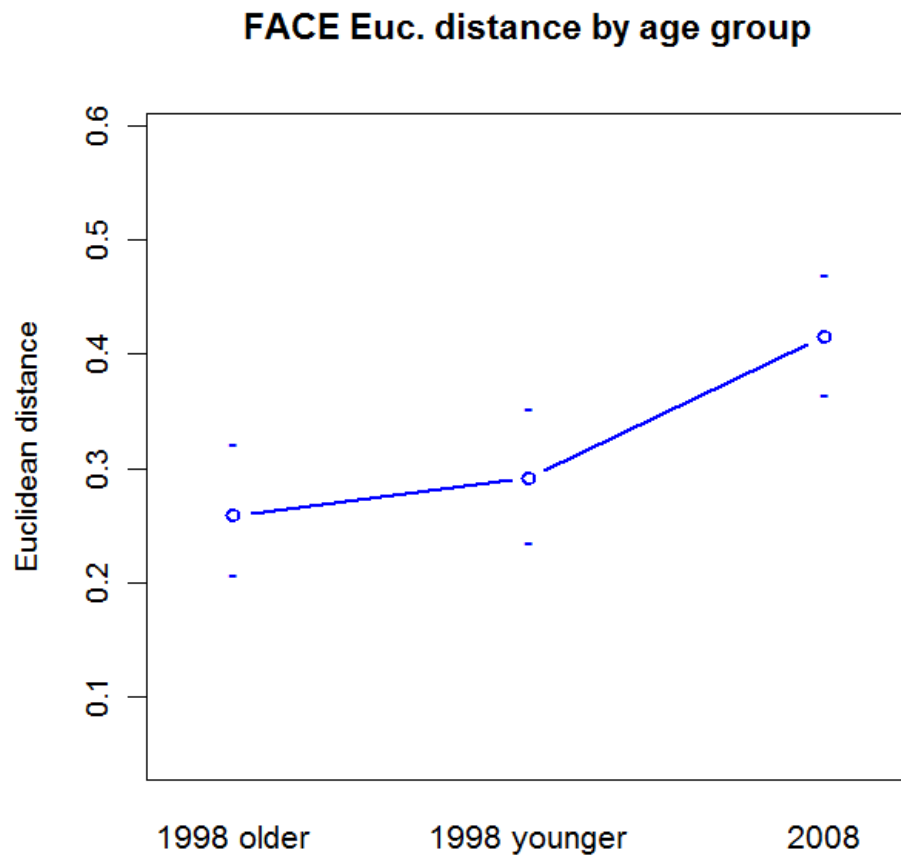
Regression models:

- **Dep. Variable:** Euc. Distance
- **Fixed effects:**
 - Age group (2008, 1998 older, 1998 younger)
 - Style (conversation vs. wordlist)*
 - Attitudinal score*
 - Vowel duration
 - Speaker sex
 - Following & following voicing/manner/POA
- **Random intercepts:** speaker, lexical root

* models with 2008 data only

3. FACE/GOAT diphthongization

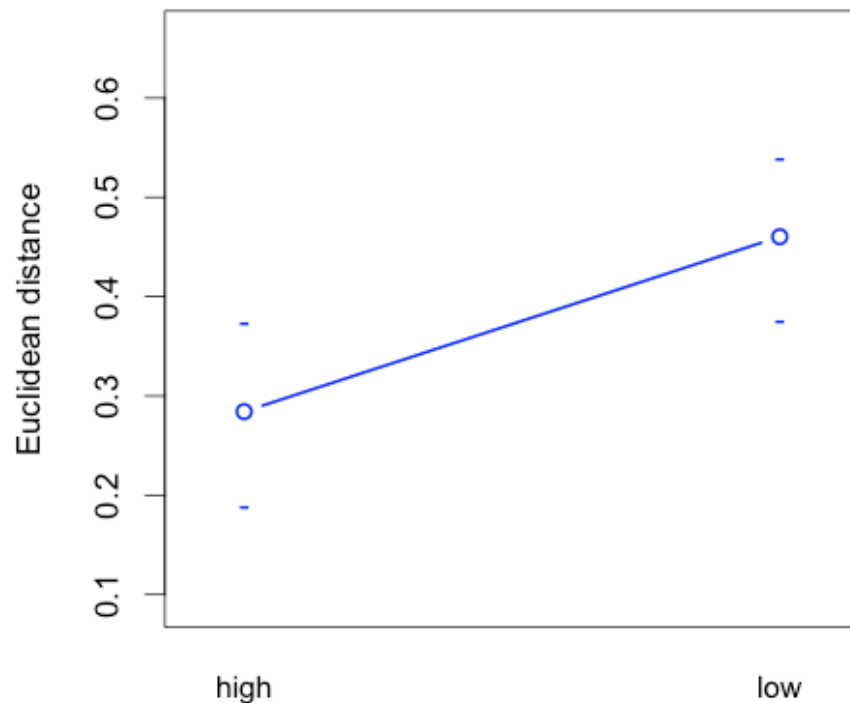
Partial effects for age group for GOAT & FACE



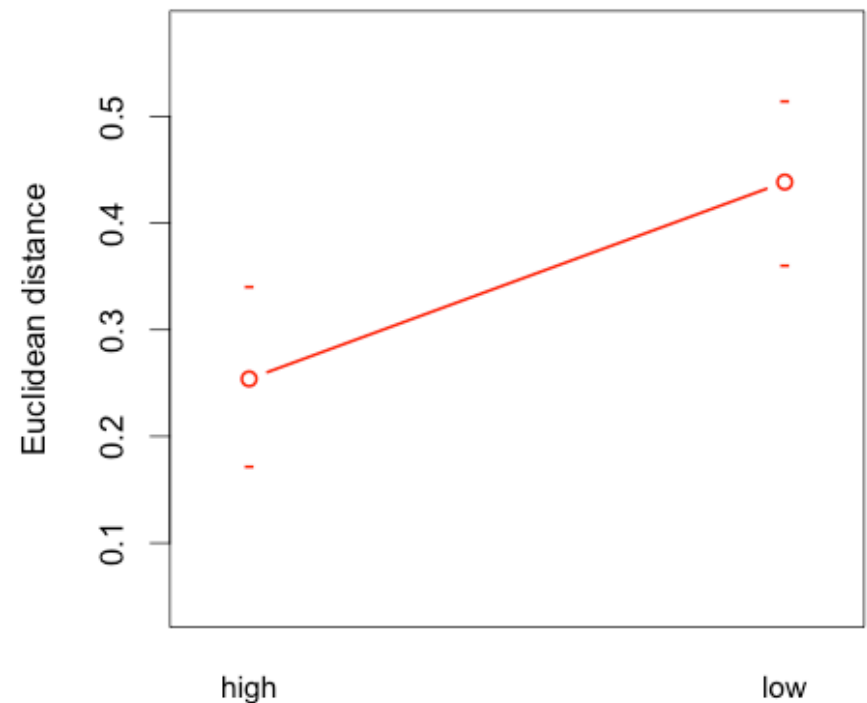
3. FACE/GOAT diphthongization

Partial effects for attitudinal index

Partial effects for attitudinal index-FACE



Partial effects for attitudinal index-GOAT

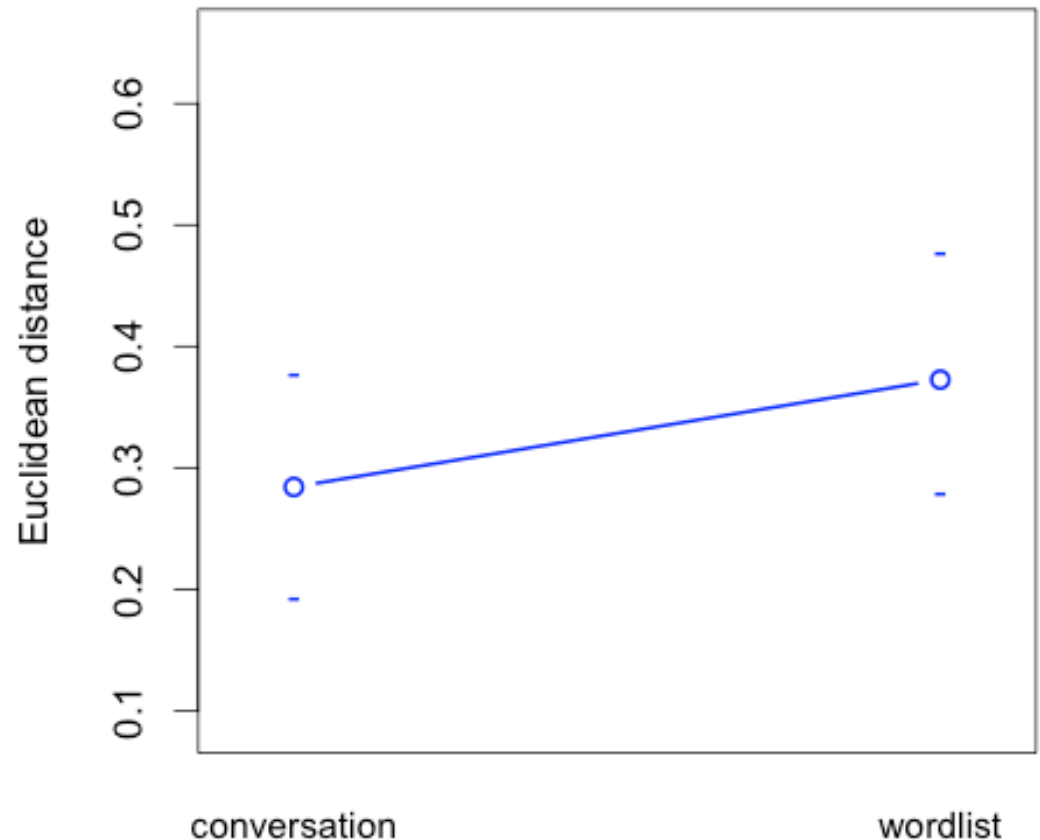


3. FACE/GOAT diphthongization

Sex & style

- No effect for sex or style for FACE or GOAT
- Significant style effect only for FACE

Partial effects for style-FACE

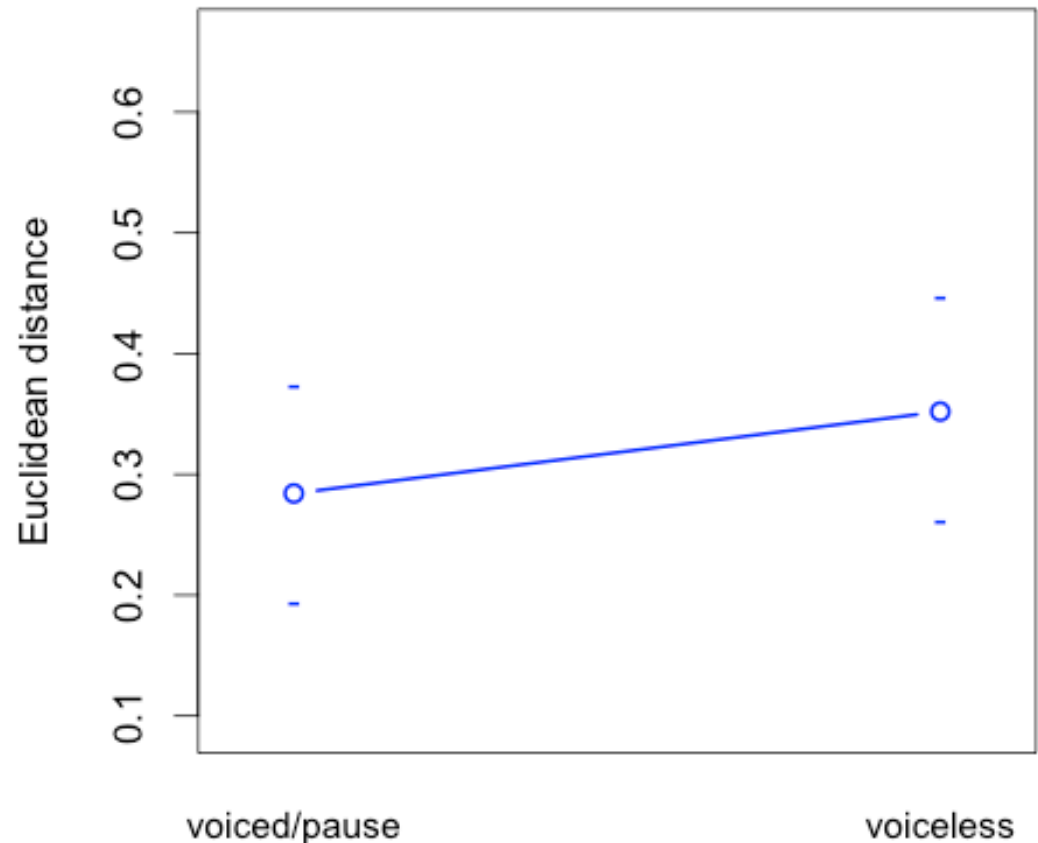


3. FACE/GOAT diphthongization

Voicing effect

- For FACE but not GOAT.
- Akin to familiar voicing effects for PRICE (Moreton & Thomas 2004)

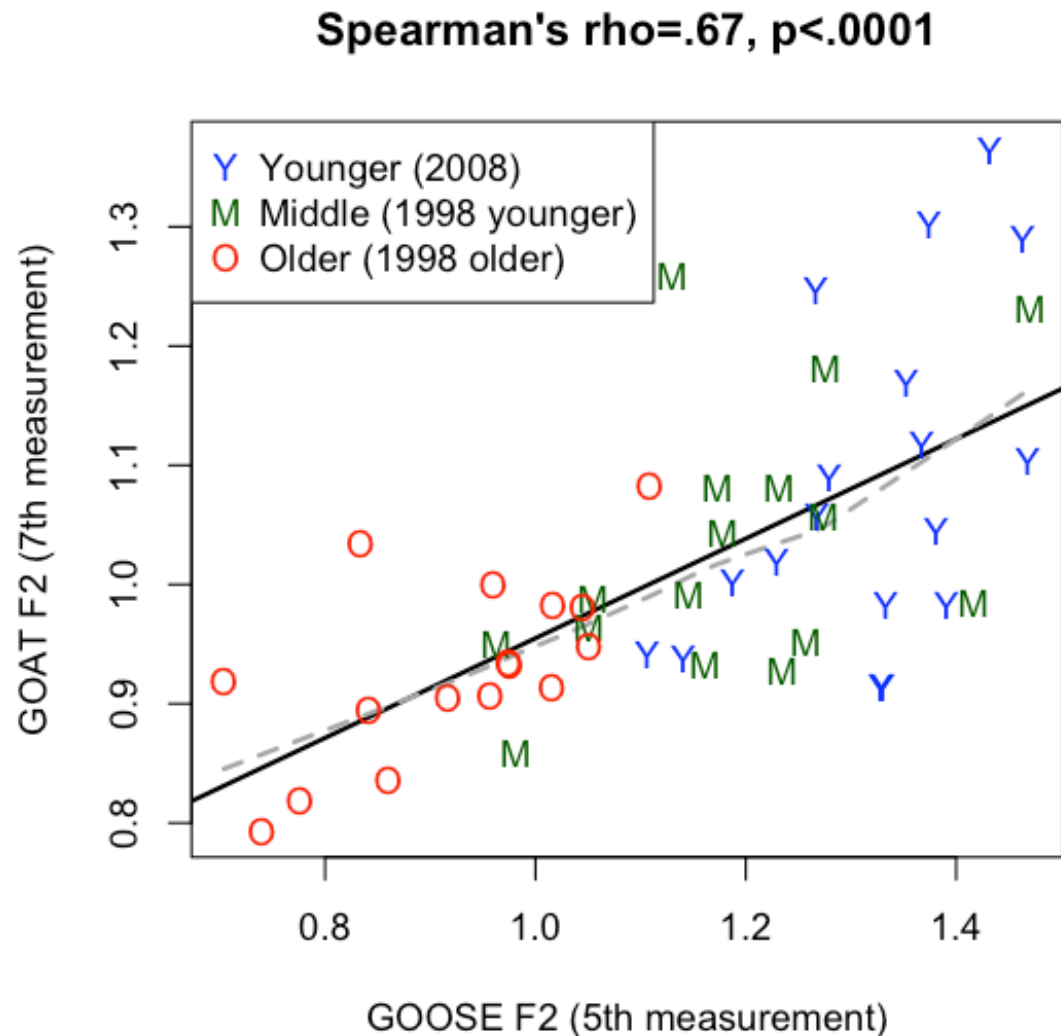
Partial effects for following voicing-FACE



4. GOAT/GOOSE fronting

By-speaker correlation: GOAT/GOOSE F2

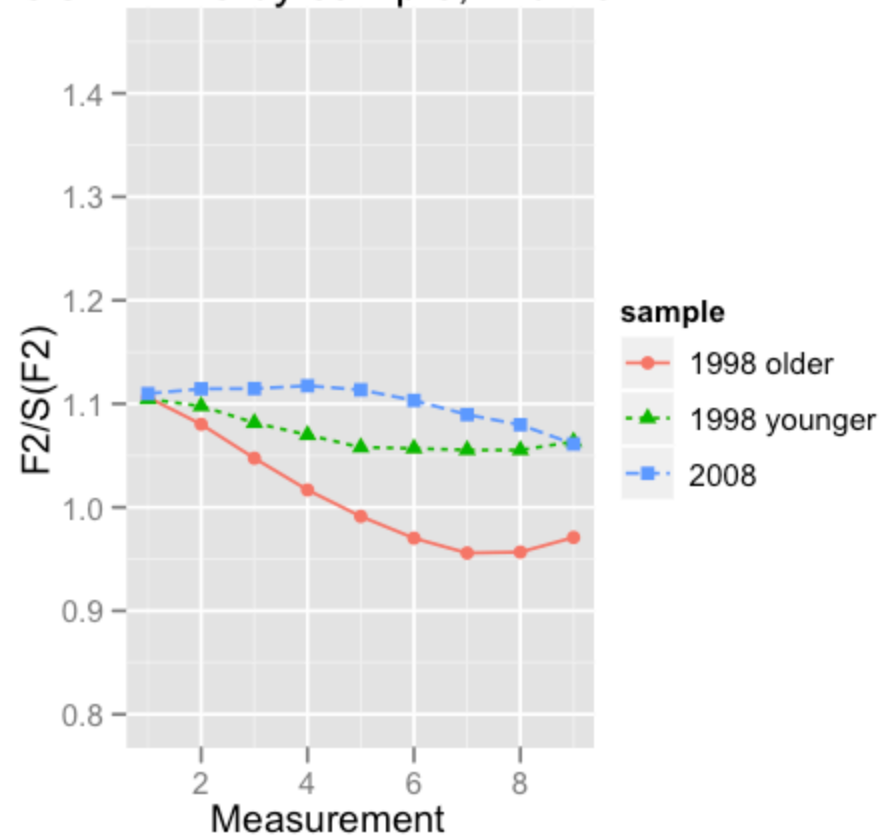
- Fairly good correlation between GOAT and GOOSE
- Support for a unified process of change (Labov 1994, cf. Hall-Lew 2004, 2009, Baranowski 2008, Hughes et al 2011)



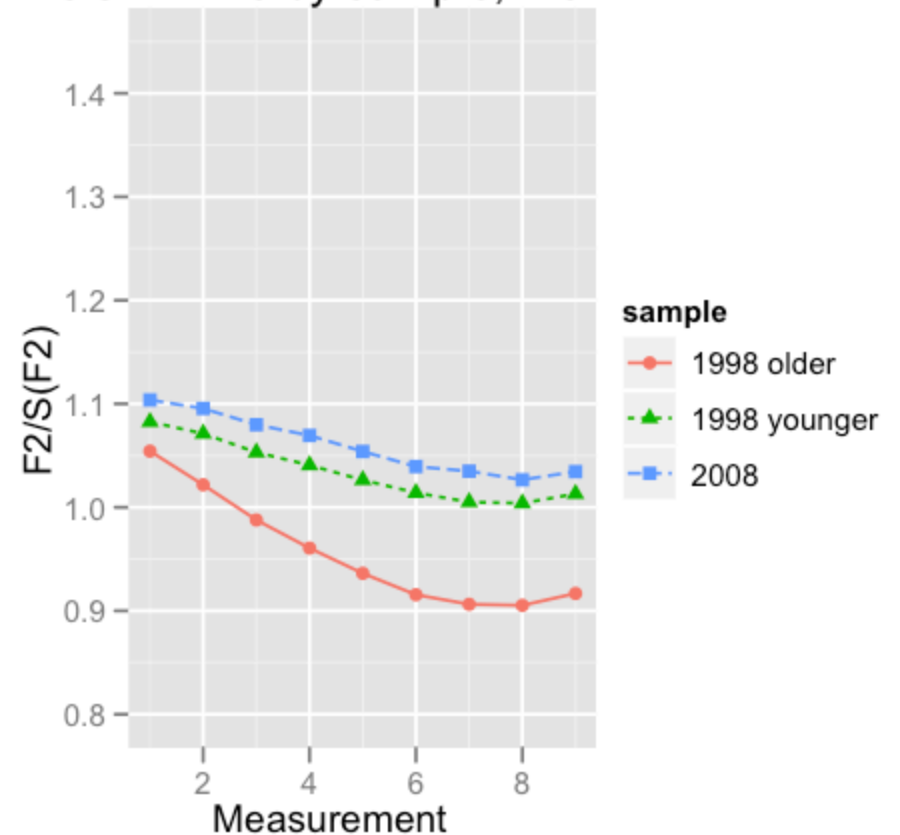
4. GOAT/GOOSE fronting

GOAT formant trajectories by sex and sample

GOAT F2s by sample, Women



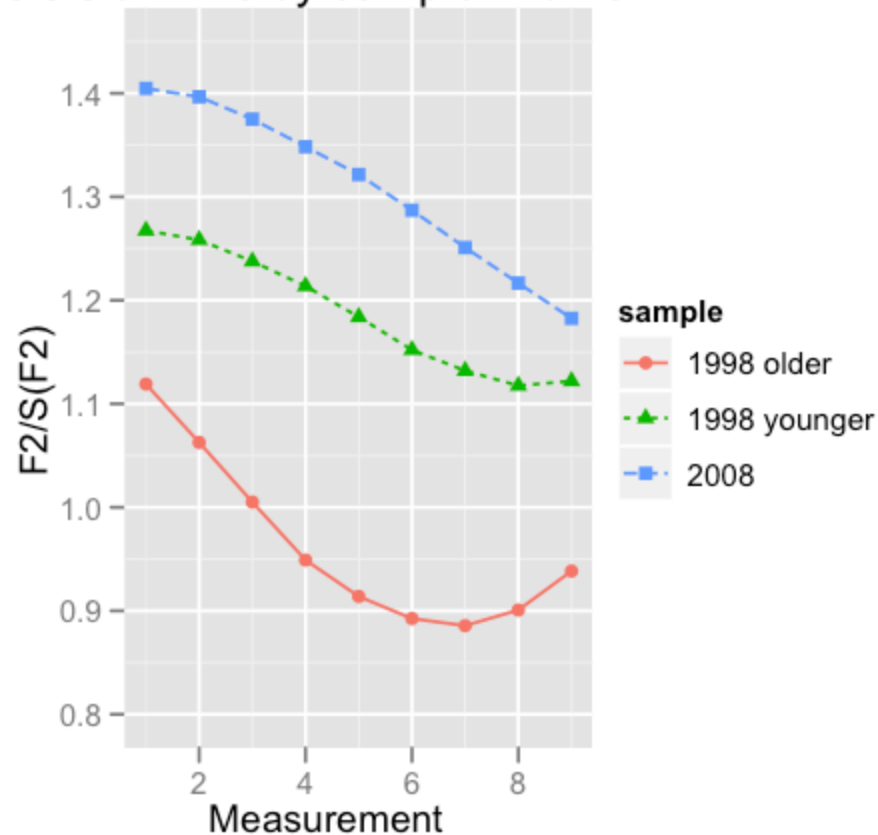
GOAT F2s by sample, Men



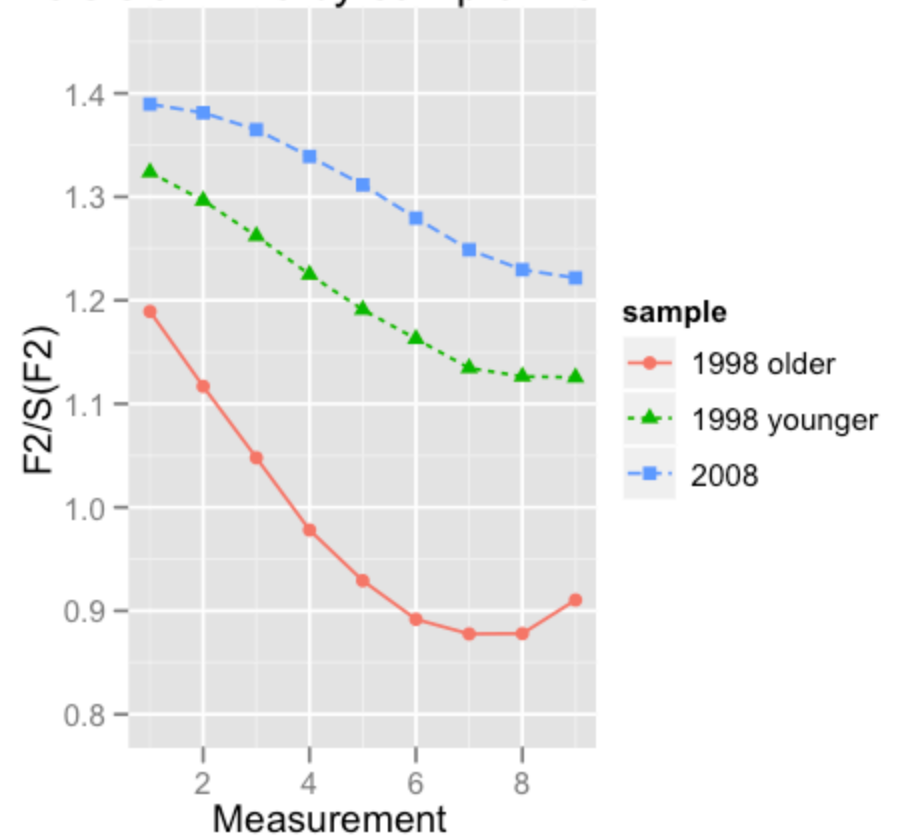
4. GOAT/GOOSE fronting

GOOSE formant trajectories by sex and sample

GOOSE F2s by sample-Women

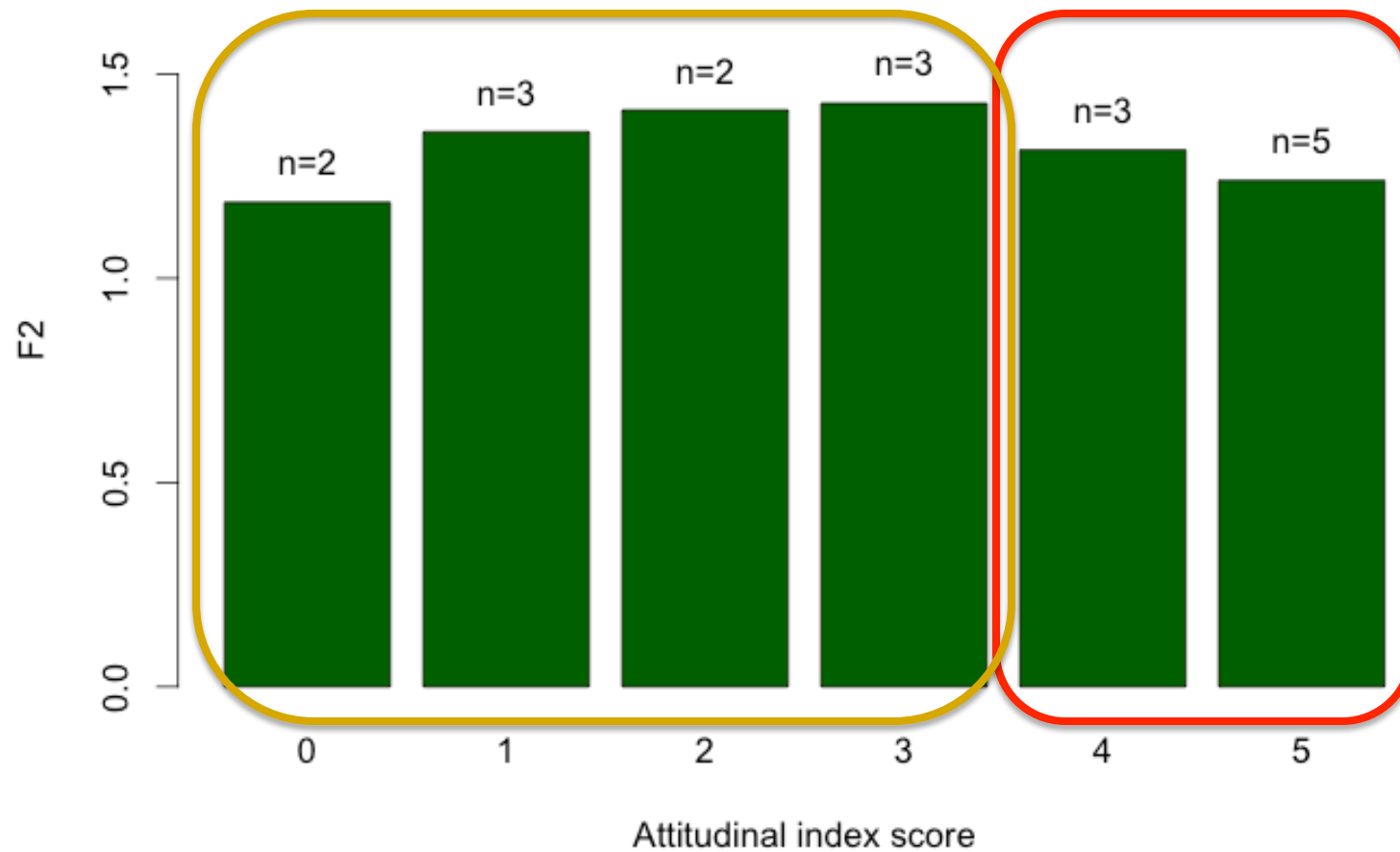


GOOSE F2s by sample-Men



4. GOAT/GOOSE fronting

F2 (5th measurement) for GOOSE by attitudinal index score



4. GOAT/GOOSE fronting

Regression models:

- **Dep. Variable:** F2 (5th meas. for GOOSE, 7th for GOAT)
 - **Fixed effects:**
 - Age group (2008, 1998 older, 1998 younger)
 - Style (conversation vs. wordlist)*
 - Attitudinal score*
 - Vowel duration
 - Speaker sex
 - Following & following voicing/manner/POA
 - **Random intercepts:** speaker, lexical root
- * models with 2008 data only

5. Discussion and summary

Main findings:

- **Diphthongization of GOAT/FACE**
 - Age effect
 - No sex effect
 - Style effect for FACE
 - Strong attitudinal effect
- **Fronting of GOAT/GOOSE**
 - Age effect
 - Suggestive sex effect for GOAT fronting ($p=.052$)
 - No style effect
 - No attitudinal effect

5. Discussion and summary

Camille and Kerry on Yorkshire accent:



I: Ok. What accent would you say that you had? How would you describe it?

C: Broad Yorkshire *[laughs]*.

K: You're a lot broader than I am.

C: Yeah.

K: You've got your 'post'. [o:]

C: Yeah.

K: And your 'coat' [o:]. I never thought I had an accent until I went down south and everyone was like, "oh, you've got such an accent." *[laughs]* I just- I never noticed [əʊ] it before.

5. Discussion and summary

Mike and Dan on Yorkshire accent:



M: You definitely have a Yorkshire accent.

D: Yeah I've pr- - I do.

M: But I don't really have one I don't think.

D: Well I used to think that it was just in the way that I would say like, say if I said like, “**Dave**,” it would just have like an **[e:]**.

M: “Dave” [mimicking] Yeah, **[e:]**.

D: Like in- in the ‘A’ bit. But like, some words as well.

5. Discussion and summary

Main claims:

- Support for claim that GOAT/FACE diphthongization shaped by strong association of these forms with local community (Watt 2002, Watt & Milroy 1999).
- Weaker association in case of GOOSE/GOAT fronting.
- Following voicing effect for FACE but not GOAT.
- Dynamic measurements reveal fronting of whole vowel for GOOSE, middle/offset for GOAT.

Thanks, cheers, ta

Social correlates of two vowel changes in Northern England

Bill Haddican, Hazel Richards, Paul Foulkes,
Vincent Hughes

Thanks to: Participants in York, Nathan Atkinson, Laura Bailey, Diane Blakemore, Dan Johnson, Jen Hay, Holly Prest, Sali Tagliamonte, Dominic Watt, Sophie Wood, audiences at UKLVC, CUNY, Sociolinguistics Symposium. Economic and Social Research Council (RES-061-25-0033)



*A Comparative Study of Language Change in
Northern Englishes (2008-13)*

ESRC: RES-061-25-0033



NWAV40

Selected references

- Docherty, G. and P. Foulkes (1999) 'Derby and Newcastle: instrumental phonetics and variationist studies.' In Foulkes, P. and G. Docherty (eds) *Urban Voices*. London: Arnold. pp. 47-71.
- Fabricius, A. (2007) Variation and change in the TRAP and STRUT vowels of RP: a real time comparison of five acoustic data sets. *Journal of the International Phonetic Association* 37:3 pp. 293-320.
- Foulkes, P. and G. Docherty (1999) *Urban Voices*. London: Arnold.
- Hall-Lew, L. (2009) Ethnicity and Phonetic Variation in a San Francisco Neighborhood. PhD Diss. Stanford
- Hall-Lew, L. (2010). Ethnicity and Sociolinguistic Variation in San Francisco. *Language and Linguistics Compass*, 4:458-472.
- Llamas, C. (2007) 'A place between places': Language and identity in a border town. *Language in Society* 36:4,579-604.
- Moreton, E. and E.. Thomas (2004). Origins of Canadian Raising in voiceless- coda effects: A case study in phonologization. J. Cole and J. I Hualde (eds.). *Papers in Laboratory Phonology* 9.
- Richards, H. (2008) *Mechanisms, motivations and outcomes of change in Morley (Leeds) English*. Unpublished thesis: University of York.
- Tagliamonte, S. (1996-1998) *Roots of identity: Variation and grammaticalization in contemporary British English*. Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) of Great Britain. Ref R000221842.
- Tagliamonte, S. (1998) Was/Were Variations across the generations: View from the city of York. *Language Variation and Change* 10(2) 153-191.
- Thomas, E. R. and T. Kendall (2010). Vowels package for R. <http://cran.r-project.org>.
- Watt, D.. (2000). Phonetic parallels between the close-mid vowels of Tyneside English: Are they internally or externally motivated? *Language Variation and Change*. 12:69-101.
- Watt, D. and L. Milroy (1999) 'Patterns of variation and change in three Newcatle vowels: is this dialect levelling?' In Foulkes, P. and G. Docherty (eds) *Urban Voices*. London: Arnold. pp. 25-46.
- Watt, D. and J. Tillotson (2001) A spectrographic analysis of vowel fronting in Bradford English. *English World-Wide* 22 (2) pp269-302.
- Watt, D. (2002) 'I don't speak with a Geordie accent, I speak, like, the Northern accent': Contact-induced levelling in the Tyneside vowel system. *Journal of Sociolinguistics* 6:44-63.
- Wells, J. C. (1982) *Accents of English*. Cambridge: C.U.P.
- Williams, A. and P. Kerswill (1999) 'Dialect levelling: continuity vs. change in Milton Keynes, Reading and Hull.' In Foulkes, P. and G. Docherty (eds) *Urban Voices*. London: Arnold. pp. 141-162.